

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

I. Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon for determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to a received package, the instructions, when executed on a processor, causing the processor to perform the following:

- receiving information identifying the received package;
- receiving information identifying an expected package;
- comparing the information identifying the expected package to the information identifying the received package; and
- designating the package for delivery if the information identifying the expected package matches the information identifying the received package.

16. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to perform designating the package for non-delivery if the information identifying the expected package does not match the information identifying the received package.

17. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package comprises receiving information from one of a user interface and a bar code scanner.

18. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package comprises receiving package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.

19. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying an expected package comprises receiving an e-mail message.

20. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein information identifying an expected package further comprises determining, from the e-mail message, information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

21. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving an e-mail message comprises receiving an e-mail message from a sender of the package.

22. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving an e-mail message comprises receiving an e-mail message from an addressee of the package.

23. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to perform:

- determining a sender of the package;
- comparing the sender of the package to a plurality of predefined senders; and
- designating the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the determined package sender matches one of the plurality of predefined senders and designating the delivery authorization status as delivery is not acceptable if the determined package sender does not match any of the plurality of predefined senders.

24. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein receiving information identifying an expected package comprises:

parsing the e-mail message into at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

25. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying the received package and receiving information identifying an expected package comprises receiving a first e-mail message from a sender of the package and a second e-mail message from an addressee of the package.

26. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 25, receiving information identifying the received package and receiving information identifying an expected package comprises:

determining, from the first e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, a delivery authorization status as either delivery is acceptable or delivery is not acceptable; and

designating the package for delivery if the information determined from the first e-mail message matches the information determined from the second e-mail message and if the delivery authorization status determined from the second e-mail message is delivery is acceptable.

27. (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to perform storing at least one of following: the authorization status, the sender identification, the addressee identification, the package identification, and the projected delivery date of the package.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for processing packages, the method comprising:
receiving a package at an intermediate shipping site, the package having an associated addressee;
receiving a message from the addressee of the package prior to an attempt to deliver the package to the addressee;
determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to the package based on the received message; and
delivering the package if the authorization status is that delivery is acceptable and not attempting to deliver the package if the authorization status is that delivery is not acceptable.
30. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving message information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.
31. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein determining the delivery authorization status comprises determining a current date and determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the projected delivery date matches the current date.
32. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:
determining, from the received package, package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.
33. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 32, wherein determining a delivery authorization status further comprises:

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the package information matches the message information.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving an e-mail message.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 34, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

parsing the e-mail message into at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 34, further comprising receiving a second e-mail message from a sender of the package.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 36, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

determining, from the first e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a current date;

determining, from the second e-mail message, a delivery authorization status as either delivery is acceptable or delivery is not acceptable; and

designating the package for delivery if the information determined from the first e-mail message matches the information determined from the second e-mail message and if the delivery authorization status determined from the second e-mail message is delivery is acceptable.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 30, further comprising storing at least one of following: the delivery authorization status, the sender identification, the addressee identification, the package identification, and the projected delivery date of the package.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

- determining a sender identification; and
- determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the determined sender identification matches one of a plurality of predefined senders and determining the authorization status as delivery is not acceptable if the determined sender identification does not match any of the plurality of predefined senders.

40-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A system for determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to a received package, the system comprising:

- a user interface; and
- a processor in communication with the user interface, wherein the processor performs upon receipt of a package at an intermediate shipping site, the package having an associated addressee:

- receiving a message from the addressee of the package prior to an attempt to deliver the package to the addressee;

- determining a delivery authorization status corresponding to the package based on the received message; and

- designating the package for delivery if the authorization status is that delivery is acceptable and designating the package for no delivery attempt if the authorization status is that delivery is not acceptable.

45. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 44, wherein receiving a message comprises receiving message information comprising at least one of the following:

an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.

46. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 45, wherein determining the delivery authorization status comprises determining a current date and determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the projected delivery date matches the current date.

47. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 45, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

determining, from the received package, package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.

48. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 47, wherein determining a delivery authorization status further comprises:

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the package information matches the message information.

49. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 44, wherein determining a delivery authorization status comprises:

determining a sender identification; and

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the determined sender identification matches one of a plurality of predefined senders and determining the authorization status as delivery is not acceptable if the determined sender identification does not match any of the plurality of predefined senders.

50. (New) A method for processing packages, the method comprising:

receiving a package at an intermediate shipping site, the package having an associated addressee and an associated sender;

receiving a first e-mail message from the addressee of the package;

receiving a second e-mail message from the sender of the package.

determining, from the first e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package;

determining, from the second e-mail message, at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a current date;

determining, from the second e-mail message, a delivery authorization status as either delivery is acceptable or delivery is not acceptable; and

designating the package for delivery if the information determined from the first e-mail message matches the information determined from the second e-mail message and if the delivery authorization status determined from the second e-mail message is delivery is acceptable.

51. (New) The method as recited in claim 50, further comprising delivering the package if the authorization status is that delivery is acceptable and not attempting to deliver the package if the authorization status is that delivery is not acceptable.

52. (New) The method as recited in claim 50, wherein determining the delivery authorization status comprises determining a current date and determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the projected delivery date matches the current date.

53. (New) The method as recited in claim 50, wherein determining the delivery authorization status comprises:

determining, from the received package, package information comprising at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, and an identification of the package.

54. (New) The method as recited in claim 53, wherein determining the delivery authorization status further comprises:

determining the delivery authorization status as delivery is acceptable if the package information matches the message information.

55. (New) The method as recited in claim 50, wherein determining the delivery authorization status comprises:

parsing the second e-mail message into at least one of the following: an identification of the sender of the package, an identification of the addressee of the package, an identification of the package, and a projected delivery date of the package.